(b) to (d) Depressive disorders are managed at mental health care hospitals, psychiatric departments of medical colleges, general hospitals and private hospitals by mental health professionals, trained primary health care personnel, clinical psychologists and counsellors. The District Mental Health Programme under the National Mental Health Programme has been launched on a pilot basis in 1996-97 and is presently being implemented in 25 districts spread over 26 States and Union Territories.

News-item "Avoiding Medical Malpractice"

3724. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Avoiding medical malpractice", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 30th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to see that the doctors do not refuse to treat people in accidents and emergency situations and follow a code of ethics; and

(c) the further steps being taken so that the Indian Medical Association does act on public complaints against doctors?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed by the Medical Council of India a physician should respond to any request for his assistance in an emergency or whenever temperate public opinion expects the service. The Medical Council of India and State Medical Councils are competent to take disciplinary action against the physicians for violation of Code of Ethics. The Indian Medical Association does not have any power to take action against doctors for violation of Medical Ethics, but it is constantly impressing upon the doctors to strictly follow the Medical Ethics.

Efficacy of Ayurvedic Medicines in treating heart ailments

3725. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Healing the heart the Ayurveda way", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 4th March, 2001;